

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 4 were objected to based on matters of language. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended by this response, addressing the matters of language noted by the Examiner. In addition, the drawings were objected to based on a perceived failure to illustrate a cylindrical sleeve as set forth in claim 7. By this response, claim 7 has been canceled such that the drawings are believed to be in satisfactory form.

Claims 2-11, 13, 14, 20, 22, 27, 28, and 31 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence, U.S. Patent 2,603,249, in view of Thoen et al., U.S. Patent 3,115,739. Claim 29 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence and Thoen et al., and further in view of Mullet et al., U.S. Patent 4,629,006. Claims 26 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, with an indication that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this response, independent claims 2 and 13 have been amended in a manner believed to patentably define over the prior art.

Specifically, claim 2 has been amended to state that the accessory defines a working end including a power unit. Claim 2 states that the working end of the accessory, including the power unit, is spaced outwardly from the vertical pivot axis and is movable about the vertical pivot axis between first and second positions. Claim 2 states that the accessory, including the power unit, is located on a first side of the linkage arrangement when the accessory is in the first position and on a second side of the linkage arrangement when the accessory is in the second position. Claim 2 is further amended to state that the accessory is operated by the power unit without being operated by drive components located inwardly of the vertical pivot axis.

In addition, claim 2 is amended to state that the handle is interconnected with the accessory mounting arrangement at a location outwardly of the vertical pivot member. The handle is defined as being configured to be raised and lowered to pivot the link members

about the horizontal axis pivot connection, and to be moved horizontally to pivot the accessory mounting arrangement about the vertical pivot axis.

The combination of Lawrence and Thoen et al. is not seen to show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 2. In this regard, the Lawrence reference discloses an attachment that is driven by operation of the tractor through the power take-off of the tractor. This provides a limited range of movement of the Lawrence accessory, in that the accessory can only be moved an amount that can be accommodated by the belt and pulley drive system that provides rotary power to the accessory from the power take-off. In Thoen et al., the accessory is driven by a separate motor 130 that is secured adjacent the frame 11. Again, a belt and pulley drive system extends between the motor output in the accessory for providing rotary power to the accessory. In the case of Thoen et al., there is no need to accommodate angular movement of the accessory, since the entire accessory is movable up-and-down on the framework to adjust the height of the accessory.

In direct contrast, the present invention as set forth in amended claim 2 provides an accessory that is powered by a power unit located outwardly of the vertical pivot axis. In this manner, there is no need to transfer power from an inward location to the outwardly located accessory. Rather, the power unit of the accessory is located outwardly of the vertical pivot axis along with the accessory.

In addition, neither Lawrence nor Thoen et al. show or suggest a handle as claimed. Thoen et al. contains no disclosure of a handle whatsoever. In Lawrence, the handle 34 is secured to an upper bracket 20, which is used to secure the accessory to the tractor at a location immediately adjacent the tractor power take-off. The handle 34 of Lawrence simply functions to raise and lower the linkage. Horizontal movement of the linkage is caused by a control cable 70 using a power operated lever 16. In direct contrast, the present invention uses a manually operated handle as claimed, which is interconnected with the accessory mounting arrangement outwardly of the vertical pivot axis, and which provides both vertical and horizontal movement of the accessory.


For the above reasons, amended claim 2 is believed to patentably define over the combination of Lawrence and Thoen et al., and is allowable. Claims 3-6, 8-11, 20, 26, and 27 depend directly or indirectly from claim 2, and are thus also believed allowable for the above reasons as well as of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 13 has been amended along the same lines as claim 2. For the reasons noted above with respect to claim 2, it is believed that claim 13 also patentably defines over the references, and is allowable. Claims 14, 22, and 28-31 depend directly or indirectly from claim 13, and are thus also believed allowable.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 2-11, 13, 14, 20, 22 and 26-31, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Andrew S. McConnell
Reg. No. 32,272

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Boyle Fredrickson, S.C.
840 North Plankinton Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 225-9755
Customer No.: 23598